

Finally, we need to consider mechanisms that ensure compliance with commitments in the human dimension. In Copenhagen we established the human dimension mechanism. It has already proven its worth -- even if we would rather not have had the opportunity to test it. Canada will actively consider proposals for strengthening this mechanism.

A final word about human dimension meetings themselves. As we look to the future, we need to decide where the human dimension of the CSCE is going. There are some who have questioned whether or not the CSCE actually needs to have a special focus on the human dimension. They suggest that our work is done, the Cold War is over, and they tell us that there are other organizations that could probably do this work better. We strongly disagree. In Canada's view, the human dimension is an integral part of the CSCE process, not only valid, but essential. It is the essence of our new security architecture. Therefore, we favour more meetings on the human dimension and look forward to discussing how we might best mobilize our efforts.

I believe that we must use this meeting not simply to review the past, but to prepare for the future. We must ensure that this dynamic CSCE process continues to provide a comprehensive foundation for that future. An exciting political process is under way in Europe. Countries are emerging from political cocoons -- testing long-awaited freedoms and ideas. We must ensure that there is both a moral and political framework in place so that no idea -- except the most destructive -- is ever again repressed.

Human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic development are essential components of security. We cannot continue to build this new Europe of hope and justice if we have not entrenched these inherent rights. I am confident that our delegations can work together to capture the spirit and the magic of the human souls that have provided us with this unique and historic opportunity. We must not fail them or the generations to follow.